

Appl. No. 09/536,945
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 31 December 2003

Page 2 of 3

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-40 are pending in the application.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

The Office action rejects claims 1-40 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kurowski (USP 6,553,127) and Leighton (USP 5,949,885). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In each of the applicants' independent claims, the applicants claim a plurality of data items, each having a corresponding security identifier, and an entirety parameter that is dependent upon the plurality of the security identifiers. In an example embodiment, the security identifier of each data item includes a hash of the data item, and the entirety parameter includes a composite of these hash values.

The Office action relies upon Leighton for teaching creating an entirety parameter that is based on a plurality of security identifiers associated with data items, and cites Leighton's column 5 line 66 through column 6 line 16 for this teaching (Office action, page 3, first paragraph). The applicants respectfully traverse this characterization of Leighton.

At the cited text, Leighton teaches the creation of watermark vectors that are used as offsets to be applied to a base watermark to create unique watermarks for each subsequent copy of the same protected content material. The cited text of Leighton teaches a method of creating different watermarks for different copies of the same protected material; the applicants respectfully maintain that these teachings are irrelevant to the applicants' claimed creation of an entirety parameter that is based on security identifiers associated with data items comprising the material that is being protected.

Leighton does not teach that the created unique watermark for each copy of the content material is based on security identifiers associated with data items in the material being protected. Leighton is silent with regard to a security identifier associated with each data item, and is silent with regard to creating an entirety parameter that is a composite of such identifiers. The Office action fails to identify an element in Leighton that corresponds to the applicants' entirety identifier, and fails to identify the security identifiers associated with each data item in the protect material that are used to create such an entirety identifier.

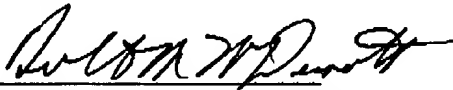
Appl. No. 09/536,945
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 31 December 2003

Page 3 of 3

Because Leighton does not teach an entirety parameter that is based on a plurality of the security identifiers associated with data items in the content material that is being presented, as relied upon in the Office action rejection, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this rejection.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert M. McDermott, Attorney
Registration Number 41,508
patents@lawyer.com

1824 Federal Farm Road
Montross, VA 22520
Phone: 804-493-0707
Fax: 215-243-7525